
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

June 2, 2013

TEXT: ***Matthew 24:1-5 KJV***

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple. (2) And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. (3) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (4) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. (5) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

INTRO: *Will You Be Deceived?*

There are those who say Matthew is Speaking only to the Jews or Mainly to the Jew and then to the Church

Is the Tribulation only for the Jew and not for the Church? What did the Early church Fathers believe?? ***

God never had two plans (A & B) → Too much evidence that the Saints will be on earth beyond Revelation Chapter 4!

Romans 10:12 KJV For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Jesus was asked by His disciples three questions:
1. Tell us, when shall these things be? The destruction of the temple?
2. What ***shall be*** the sign of thy coming,
3. What ***shall be*** the sign of the end of the world?

Don't Be Shaken! . . .

I. Belief System Challenged

Matthew 24:1-2 KJV

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple. (2) And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

We sometimes have to have ***our belief system challenged***… the disciples believed that the temple would stand forever – ***Jesus challenges their belief by telling them that the temple would be destroyed***

There are those who would tell you that the church will not see the antichrist or be here on earth during the seven year period known as the tribulation… We seem to have this thing that Christians will not ever be "uncomfortable" – persecution – suffering – tribulation – martyred – all deal with man's wrath or satan's wrath not God's Wrath

John 16:33 KJV

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world *ye shall have tribulation*: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Matthew 16:18 KJV

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and ***the gates of hell shall not prevail against it***.

Matthew 16:21 KJV

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

II. The Chronology of Matthew 24

The Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24 answers the disciple's question:
*"…what shall be the **sign** of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (v.3)*

"The sign** (singular) **of Thy coming" - The sign of Christ's coming is given in vv. 29-30. This sign, which will occur when the sixth seal is loosed in Rev. 6:12, will fulfill Joel 2:31, which foretold that this "sign" of the sun being darkened and the moon turning blood-red will come immediately before the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.

Matthew 24:29-31 KJV

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and ***they shall see*** the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelation 6:12 KJV

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Joel 2:31 KJV

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, ***before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come***.

"Your coming" - Your *"parousias"* (speaks of His personal presence at his second advent) [This word is used to speak of the Rapture throughout the New Testament (v. 27, 37, 39; I Cor. 15:23; I Th. 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23; II Th. 2:1, 8; Ja. 5:7, 8; II Pet. 1:16, 3:4; I Jn. 2:28).]

"The end of the world" - lit. ***"the completion of the age"*** (*"aionos"*)
Not speaking of the obliteration of the earth (as some Bible teachers suggest), ***but of the end of this Age, before the Millennial Age***. The ***end of***

this Age will end the age of "man" and will ***commence the Day of the Lord***. How will we know when the end of this Age is to come? Jesus gives specific, detailed descriptions of life on earth prior to His coming.

NOTE: Matthew 24:4-31 runs strikingly parallel to the six seals of Revelation 6.

THE HARMONY OF MATTHEW 24 & REVELATION 6

Matthew 24		Revelation 6	
v.4-5 **Deception**	***Mat 24:4*** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ***Mat 24:5*** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.	***Seal #1*** **Deception** **The antichrist, the deceiver→**	***Rev 6:1*** And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ***Rev 6:2*** And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.
v.6-7a **War**	***Mat 24:6*** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ***Mat 24:7*** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom	***Seal #2*** **War**	***Rev 6:3*** And when he had opened ***the second seal***, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ***Rev 6:4*** And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.
v.7b **Famine**	***Mat 24:7b*** and there shall be famines,	***Seal #3*** **Famine**	***Rev 6:5*** And when he had opened ***the third seal***, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. ***Rev 6:6*** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine.
v.7-8 **Death & Destruction**	***Mat 24:7c*** and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ***Mat 24:8*** All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.	***Seal #4*** **Death & Destruction**	***Rev 6:7*** And when he had opened ***the fourth seal***, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. ***Rev 6:8*** And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
v.9-22 **Persecution** (Innocent Bloodshed)	***Mat 24:9*** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. ***Mat 24:10*** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ***Mat 24:11*** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ***Mat 24:12*** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ***Mat 24:13*** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ***Mat 24:14*** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. ***Mat 24:15*** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel	***Seal #5*** **Persecution** (Innocent Bloodshed)	***Rev 6:9*** And when he had opened ***the fifth seal***, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ***Rev 6:10*** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? ***Rev 6:11*** And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were,* should be fulfilled.

	the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ***Mat 24:16*** Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ***Mat 24:17*** Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ***Mat 24:18*** Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ***Mat 24:19*** And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ***Mat 24:20*** But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ***Mat 24:21*** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ***Mat 24:22*** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.		
v.29-31 **Cosmic Signs (Sun & Moon Altered)**	***Mat 24:29*** **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:** ***Mat 24:30*** And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ***Mat 24:31*** **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other**.	***Seal #6*** **Cosmic Signs (Sun & Moon altered)**	***Rev 6:12*** And I beheld when he had opened ***the sixth seal***, and, lo**, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;** ***Rev 6:13*** **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind**. ***Rev 6:14*** And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ***Rev 6:15*** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ***Rev 6:16*** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ***Rev 6:17*** **For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

III. *Summary of Events*

Immediately after the tribulation

sun be darkened, moon shall not give her light, stars shall fall, the **powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**

the sign of the Son of man shall appear in heaven: … the earth mourn,

they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And HE shall send his angels … a great sound of a trumpet, … they shall ***gather together his elect*** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

the great day of HIS wrath is come

*** Great men of Church History believed that

The Church would enter the Great Tribulation and face the Antichrist before the Rapture:

Justin Martyr (100-168)
"The man of apostasy [Antichrist], who speaks strange things against the Most High, shall venture to do unlawful deeds on the earth against us the Christians. . ." (Dialogue With Trypho, 110)

Irenaeus (140-202)
"And they [the ten kings who shall arise] shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the church to flight" (Against Heresies, V, 26)

Tertullian (150-220)
"The souls of the martyrs are taught to wait [Rev. 6]. . . that the beast Antichrist with his false prophets may wage war on the Church of God. . ." (On the Resurrection of the Flesh, 25)

Hippolytus (160-240)
". . .the one thousand two hundred and three score days (the half of the week) during which the tyrant is to reign and persecute the Church, which flees from city to city, and seeks concealment in the wilderness among the mountains" (Treatise on Christ and Antichrist, 61)

Cyprian (200-258)
"The day of affliction has begun to hang over our heads, and the end of the world and the time of the Antichrist to draw near, so that we must all stand prepared for the battle. . ." (Epistle 55, 1)

Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
"The Church declares to thee the things concerning the Antichrist before they arrive. . . it is well that, knowing these things, thou shouldest make thyself ready beforehand" (Catechetical Lectures, 15, 9).

Jerome (340-420)
"I told you that Christ would not come unless Antichrist had come before" (Epistle 21)

Chrysostom (345-407)
". .the time of Antichrist. . .will be a sign of the coming of Christ. . ." (Homilies on First Thessalonians, 9)

Augustine (354-430)
"But he who reads this passage *[Daniel 12],* even half asleep, cannot fail to see that the kingdom of antichrist shall fiercely, though for a short time, assail the Church. . ."" (The City of God, XX, 23)

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)
There remains only one thing – that the demon of noonday [Antichrist] should appear, to seduce those who remain still in Christ. . ." (Sermons on the Song of Songs, 33, 16).

Martin Luther (1483-1546)
"[The book of Revelation] is intended as a revelation of things that are to happen in the future, and especially of tribulations and disasters for the Church. ." (Works of Martin Luther, VI, p. 481).

Menno Simons (1496-1561)
"...He will appear as a triumphant prince and a victorious king to bring judgment. Then will those who persecute us look upon Him..." (Complete Writings..., p. 622).

John Calvin (1509-1564)
"...we ought to follow in our inquiries after Antichrist, especially where such pride proceeds to a public desolation of the church" (Institutes, Vol. 2, p. 411).

John Knox (1515-1572)
"... the great love of God towards his Church, whom he pleased to forewarne of dangers to come, so many years before they come to passe... to wit, The man of sin, The antichrist, The Whore of Babilon" (The Historie of the Reformatioun..., I, p. 76).

John Foxe (1516-1587)
"... that second beast prophesied to come in the later time of the Church... to disturb the whole Church of Christ..." (Acts and Monuments, I).

Roger Williams (1603-1683)
"Antichrist ... hath his prisons, to keep Christ Jesus and his members fast..." (The Bloody Tenent, of Persecution, p. 153).

Daniel Whitby (1638-1726)
"...after the Fall of Antichrist, there shall be such a glorious State of the Church... so shall this be the Church of Martyrs, and of those who had not received the Mark of the Beast..." (A Paraphrase and Commentary, p. 696).

John Wesley (1703-1791)
" 'The stars shall ... fall from heaven,' (Revelation, vi 13)... And then shall be heard the universal shout... followed by the 'voice of the archangel,' ... 'and the trumpet of God'... (I Thessalonians iv. 16). (The Works of the rev. John Wesley, A.M., Vol. V, p. 173).

Charles Hodge (1797-1878)
"... the fate of his Church here on earth... is the burden of the Apocalypse" (Systematic Theology, Vol. III, p. 827).

George Mueller (1805-1898)
"The Scripture declares plainly that the Lord Jesus will not come until the Apostacy shall have taken place, and the man of sin... shall have been revealed..." (Mrs. Mueller's Missionary Tours and Labours, p. 148).

Carl F. Keil (1807-1888)

". . . the persecution of the last enemy Antichrist against the church of the Lord. . ." (Biblical Commentary, Vol. XXXIV, p. 503).

John Lillie (1812-1867)
"In his [Antichrist's] days was to be the great – and last – tribulation of the Church" (Second Thessalonians, pp. 537-538).

Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1842)
"Christians must have 'great tribulation'; but they come out of it" (Bonar's Memoirs of McCheyne, p. 26).

S.P. Tregelles (1813-1875)
"The Scripture teaches the Church to wait for the manifestation of Christ. The secret theory bids us to expect a coming before any such manifestation" (The Hope of Christ's Second Coming, p. 71).

G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)
"I think the view that makes [the book of] Matthew Jewish is utterly false. The phrase '***secret Rapture***' has to me for a long time been a very objectionable one. . ." (George Ladd's The Blessed Hope, p. 55).

T.T. Shields (1873-1955)
"I do not believe there is any Scriptural warrant for the teaching that the Church may ***suddenly, secretly***, be raptured and taken out of the world. . . I believe it is a delusion. . ." (The Gospel Witness, March 21, 1974).

George E. Ladd
"[Pretribulationism] may be guilty of the positive danger of leaving the Church unprepared for tribulation when Antichrist appears . . ." (The Blessed Hope, p. 164).